What is claimed is:

1. A method for facilitating supplier qualification
and quality management functions in a communications network
environment, comprising:
    receiving at a host system a request by a user system
to execute supplier qualification and quality management
software, wherein said software comprises a selection
module, a qualification module and a quality module, and
wherein said host system and said user system are connected
to said communications network;
    executing said software at the host system;
    sending results of said execution of said software to
the user system;
    receiving input at the host system from the user system
in response to said execution of said software; and
    providing the user system with output generated as a
result of said execution of said software.

2. The method of claim 1 wherein said selection module
comprises:
    supplier selection; and
    supplier audit management.

3. The method of claim 2 wherein said supplier
selection comprises:
    retrieving at least one potential supplier based on
specific technical requirements.

1   4. The method of claim 2 wherein said supplier audit
2   management comprises:
3   accessing audit data for a potential supplier;
4   analyzing said audit data; and
5   approving said potential supplier based on results of
6   said analysis of said audit data.

1   5. The method of claim 4, wherein said audit data
2   comprises:
3   audit schedules;
4   a list of completed audits; and
5   audit reports.

1   6. The method of claim 2 wherein said supplier
2   selection is performed using a development toolkit network
3   software application.

1   7. The method of claim 2 wherein said supplier audit
2   management is performed using a quality information network
3   software application.

1   8. The method of claim 1 wherein said qualification
2   module comprises:
3   technology qualification; and
4   part qualification.

1   9.   The method of claim 8 wherein said technology

2 qualification comprises:

3   accessing technology survey data for a potential

4 supplier;

5   analyzing said technology survey data; and

6   qualifying the technology of said potential supplier

7 based on results of said analysis of said technology survey

8 data.

1   10.   The method of claim 8 wherein said technology

2 qualification is performed using a development toolkit

3 network software application.

1   11.   The method of claim 8 wherein said part

2 qualification comprises:

3   accessing part qualification data for a potential

4 supplier;

5   analyzing said part qualification data; and

6   qualifying proposed part from said potential supplier

7 based on results of said analysis of said part qualification

8 data.

1   12.   The method of claim 8 wherein said part

2 qualification is performed using a part qualification

3 software application.

1   13.   The method of claim 1 wherein said quality module
2 comprises:
3   process change management;
4   supplier quality management; and
5   tracking problems in a log.

1   14.   The method of claim 13 wherein said process change
2 management comprises:
3   accessing supplier initiated proposed changes to a
4 qualified part;
5   analyzing said proposed changes; and
6   accepting said proposed changes based on results of
7 said analysis of said proposed changes.

1   15.   The method of claim 13 wherein said process change
2 management is performed using a process change notification
3 software application.

1   16.   The method of claim 13 wherein said supplier
2 quality management comprises:
3   accessing quality metrics provided by a supplier;
4   analyzing said quality metrics; and
5   notifying said supplier of quality issues based on
6 results of said analysis of said quality metrics.

1   17.   The method of claim 13 wherein said supplier
2 quality management is performed using a process change
3 notification software application.

1   18.   The method of claim 13 wherein said tracking

2   problems in a log comprises:

3   opening a new problem report;

4   accessing said open problem report;

5   closing said open problem report;

6   notifying interested parties of status of said problem

7   report;

8   generating a report that summarizes said status of a

9   collection of said problem reports.

1   19.   The method of claim 13 wherein said tracking

2   problems in a log is performed using a problem log software

3   application.

1   20.   The method of claim 1 wherein said user system is

2   used by a supplier and access is restricted to said supplier

3   data.

1   21.   The method of claim 1 wherein said user system is

2   used by a supplier and access is restricted to supplier

3   application functions.

1   22.   A system for facilitating supplier qualification
2 and quality management functions in a communications network
3 environment, comprising:
4   a host system including a web server, an applications
5 server, and a database server;
6   at least one data storage device in communication with
7 said host system;
8   supplier qualification and quality management software
9 application being executed by said host system;
10   a firewall in communication with said host system;
11   a workstation; and
12   a computer network connecting the host system to the
13 workstation; wherein information inputted into the
14 workstation is transferred to the host system and made
15 available to the supplier qualification and quality
16 management software application.

1   23. A storage medium encoded with machine-readable

2   computer program code for facilitating supplier

3   qualification and quality management functions in a

4   communications network environment, the storage medium

5   including instructions for causing an enterprise system to

6   implement a method comprising:

7   receiving at a host system a request by a user system

8   to execute supplier qualification and quality management

9   software, wherein said software comprises a selection

10   module, a qualification module and a quality module, and

11   wherein said host system and said user system are connected

12   to said communications network;

13   executing said software at the host system;

14   sending results of said execution of said software to

15   the user system;

16   receiving input at the host system from the user system

17   in response to said execution of said software; and

18   providing the user system with output generated as a

19   result of said execution of said software.

1   24. The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said

2   selection module comprises:

3   supplier selection; and

4   supplier audit management.

1   25.   The storage medium of claim 24 wherein said
2   supplier selection comprises:
3   retrieving at least one potential supplier based on
4   specific technical requirements.

1   26.   The storage medium claim 24 wherein said supplier
2   audit management comprises:
3   accessing audit data for a potential supplier;
4   analyzing said audit data; and
5   approving said potential supplier based on results of
6   said analysis of said audit data.

1   27.   The storage medium of claim 26, wherein said audit
2   data comprises:
3   audit schedules;
4   a list of completed audits; and
5   audit reports.

1   28.   The storage medium of claim 24 wherein said
2   supplier selection is performed using a development toolkit
3   network software application.

1   29.   The storage medium of claim 24 wherein said
2   supplier audit management is performed using a quality
3   information network software application.

1   30.   The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said
2 qualification module comprises:
3   technology qualification; and
4   part qualification.

1   31.   The storage medium of claim 30 wherein said
2 technology qualification comprises:
3   accessing technology survey data for a potential
4 supplier;
5   analyzing said technology survey data; and
6   qualifying the technology of said potential supplier
7 based on results of said analysis of said technology survey
8 data.

1   32.   The storage medium of claim 30 wherein said
2 technology qualification is performed using a development
3 toolkit network software application.

1   33.   The storage medium of claim 30 wherein said part
2 qualification comprises:
3   accessing part qualification data for a potential
4 supplier;
5   analyzing said part qualification data; and
6   qualifying proposed part from said potential supplier
7 based on results of said analysis of said part qualification
8 data.

1   34. The storage medium of claim 30 wherein said part

2 qualification is performed using a part qualification

3 software application.

1   35. The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said

2 quality module comprises:

3   process change management;

4   supplier quality management; and

5   tracking problems in a log.

1   36. The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said

2 process change management comprises:

3   accessing supplier initiated proposed changes to a

4 qualified part;

5   analyzing said proposed changes; and

6   accepting said proposed changes based on results of

7 said analysis of said proposed changes.

1   37. The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said

2 process change management is performed using a process

3 change notification software application.

1   38. The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said

2 supplier quality management comprises:

3   accessing quality metrics provided by a supplier;

4   analyzing said quality metrics; and

5   notifying said supplier of quality issues based on

6 results of said analysis of said quality metrics.

1   39.   The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said
2 supplier quality management is performed using a process
3 change notification software application.

1   40.   The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said
2 tracking problems in a log comprises:
3   opening a new problem report;
4   accessing said open problem report;
5   closing said open problem report;
6   notifying interested parties of status of said problem
7 report;
8   generating a report that summarizes said status of a
9 collection of said problem reports.

1   41.   The storage medium of claim 35 wherein said
2 tracking problems in a log is performed using a problem log
3 software application.

1   42.   The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said user
2 system is used by a supplier and access is restricted to
3 said supplier data.

1   43.   The storage medium of claim 23 wherein said user
2 system is used by a supplier and access is restricted to
3 supplier application functions.